

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 21 are pending. By this response, claim 1 is amended and claim 4 is cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendment and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the interview conducted on November 9, 2004. During the Interview, the Examiner agreed that Malmquist does not teach the claimed screw recited in independent claim 5 and claim 4. The Examiner suggested further defining the features of claim 1.

Prior Art Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Malmquist (USP 4,803,306). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For reasons of brevity, Applicants' Remarks filed in the Response dated July 8, 2004 are hereby incorporated by reference.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, said metal foil and said metal plate are fastened to each other with a screw at said connecting portion.

Independent claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, said metal foil and said metal plate are fastened to each other with a screw so that said protrusion is toward said metal plate.

Both claims 1 and 5 recite the use of a screw as a fastener for the metal foil and the metal plate.

In contrast, as agreed by the Examiner in the Interview, Malmquist teaches a U-shaped attaching portion 12 for a clip 10 that includes notches 18 and ledges 20 on top of the notches. The notches taper to allow the notches to be positioned into holes of a panel where the ledges abut against the panel securing the clip to the panel. This attaching portion 12 is not a screw as claimed.

Thus, Malmquist fails to teach each and every feature of independent claims 1 and 5 as required under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

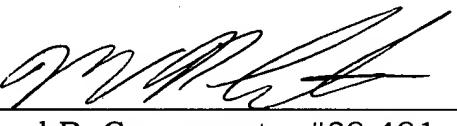
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10 and 21 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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